GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1142
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2006
BUILDING OF REACTOR BY PAKISTAN .
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Pakistan is allegedly in the process of building a 1000 MW reactor designed to increase its plutonium production twentyfold as reported in The Hindustan Times dated July 25, 2006;

(b) If so, the facts thereof;

(c) Whether this is likely to result in a nuclear arms race in the region; and

(d)If so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) − (b) Government is aware of the report. Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesperson, on 24 July 2006, said that Pakistan is a nuclear weapons state and the details of Pakistan`s nuclear facilities and programme cannot be divulged. The Spokesperson added that Khushab is a well-known nuclear site.

(c) - (d) India is not engaged in an arms race. Government regularly monitors proliferation trends in the neighbourhood. Government remains fully vigilant and takes all necessary steps to safeguard India's security and national interests.